

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference IP17152	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/IB2004/000884	International filing date (day/month/year) 28/01/2004	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 28/01/2003
Applicant FAUS GROUP		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 8 sheets.



It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.



The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. ☐ With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box II).

3. ☒ Unity of invention is lacking (see Box III).

4. With regard to the title,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

FLOORING PLANKS HAVING SUB-PANELS WITH COMPLEMENTARY EDGE PATTERNS

5. With regard to the abstract,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regard to the drawings,

- a. the figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 15a



as suggested by the applicant.



as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.



as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.

- b. ☐ none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/IB2004/000884

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☒ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

International Application No. PCT/IB2004/000884

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-43

Flooring planks having decorative patterns

2. claims: 44-47

Floor tiles having non-coplanar upper surfaces

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 B44C5/04 B44F9/02 E04F15/10			
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC			
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 B44C B44F E04F			
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the lists searched			
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data			
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category *	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.	
Y	WO 03/006232 A (FAUS GROUP, INC.) 23 January 2003 (2003-01-23) see abstract page 1, line 1 - page 10, last line ; figures 1-3	1-43	
Y	GB 2 345 269 A (LATCHWELL DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED) 5 July 2000 (2000-07-05) see abstract page 4, line 1 - page 5, last line ; figures 1,2	1-43	
Y	US 6 401 415 B1 (EUGENIO CRUZ GARCIA) 11 June 2002 (2002-06-11) cited in the application the whole document	3,5,7,10	
		-/--	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex.	
* Special categories of cited documents :			
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "S" document member of the same patent family	
Date of the actual completion of the international search 10 May 2005		Date of mailing of the international search report 30.06.2005	
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentplan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 851 cpo nl Fax: (+31-70) 340-3018		Authorized officer Greiner, E	

C. (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	DE 199 01 377 A (CORONET-WERKE GMBH) 20 July 2000 (2000-07-20) the whole document -----	1-43
A	US 2002/014047 A1 (BERNARD PAUL JOSEPH THIERS) 7 February 2002 (2002-02-07) the whole document -----	1-43
A	US 5 295 341 A (MATSUJI KAJIWARA) 22 March 1994 (1994-03-22) cited in the application the whole document -----	1-43
A	DE 200 08 837 U (MROCHEN JOACHIM) 17 August 2000 (2000-08-17) the whole document -----	1-43
X	US 2 108 226 A (W. S. JOHNSTON) 15 February 1938 (1938-02-15) the whole document -----	44-47
X	US 4 131 705 A (EUGENE J. KUBINSKY) 26 December 1978 (1978-12-26) see abstract column 1, line 4 - column 3, line 12; figure 1 -----	44-47

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 03006232	A	23-01-2003	US 2003010427 A1	16-01-2003
			BR 0211326 A	16-11-2004
			CA 2453462 A1	23-01-2003
			CN 1541158 A	27-10-2004
			DE 20220853 U1	29-04-2004
			EP 1417091 A1	12-05-2004
			JP 2004534672 T	18-11-2004
			WO 03006232 A1	23-01-2003
			US 2003167717 A1	11-09-2003
			US 2004016501 A1	29-01-2004

GB 2345269	A	05-07-2000	AU 5635799 A	27-03-2000
			WO 0014360 A1	16-03-2000

US 6401415	B1	11-06-2002	ES 2168045 A1	16-05-2002
			AU 1561200 A	14-05-2001
			BR 9917560 A	06-08-2002
			CA 2390174 A1	10-05-2001
			CN 1376230 A	23-10-2002
			DE 29924311 U1	12-09-2002
			EP 1229183 A1	07-08-2002
			WO 0133011 A1	10-05-2001
			JP 2003514148 T	15-04-2003
			US 2002110669 A1	15-08-2002
			US 2004144051 A1	29-07-2004

DE 19901377	A	20-07-2000	DE 19901377 A1	20-07-2000

US 2002014047	A1	07-02-2002	BE 1013553 A3	05-03-2002
			AT 6494 U1	25-11-2003
			AU 2819301 A	24-12-2001
			AU 6571201 A	24-12-2001
			WO 0196688 A1	20-12-2001
			WO 0196689 A1	20-12-2001
			BG 107380 A	30-06-2003
			BR 0111566 A	08-07-2003
			CA 2410206 A1	20-12-2001
			CA 2410209 A1	20-12-2001
			CN 1436267 A	13-08-2003
			CN 1436268 A	13-08-2003
			CZ 20024068 A3	18-06-2003
			DE 01984017 T1	15-07-2004
			DE 20121663 U1	27-02-2003
			EP 1290290 A1	12-03-2003
			EP 1290291 A1	12-03-2003
			ES 2220241 T1	16-12-2004
			HU 0301780 A2	28-08-2003
			JP 2004502890 T	29-01-2004
			NO 20025970 A	10-02-2003
			NZ 522893 A	27-02-2004
			PL 359970 A1	06-09-2004
			RU 2239031 C2	27-10-2004
			SI 20989 A	28-02-2003
			SK 17382002 A3	08-06-2004
			US 2003159385 A1	28-08-2003
			US 2002056245 A1	16-05-2002
			US 2005016099 A1	27-01-2005
			US 2005025934 A1	03-02-2005

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2002014047 A1		ZA 200209952 A	28-10-2003
US 5295341 A	22-03-1994	WO 9401628 A2	20-01-1994
DE 20008837 U	17-08-2000	DE 20008837 U1	17-08-2000
US 2108226 A	15-02-1938	NONE	
US 4131705 A	26-12-1978	CA 1105365 A1	21-07-1981

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IB2004/000884

Box No. IV Text of the abstract (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

Laminated flooring planks (60) include decorative motifs (68) mechanically embossed-in-registration surface textures, recessed perimeters (P) and locking mechanisms (64). Adjacent planks substantially aligned allow embossed-in-registration patterns to be substantially continuous across adjacent flooring panels. The recessed perimeter prevents the edges of the flooring panel from prematurely wearing. Individual planks within the flooring system may comprise at least one partial sub-panel having a decorative motif and/or embossed surface texture (i.e., pattern) that is complementary with a pattern of a neighboring partial sub-panel or plank. Each plank may include edge patterns adjacent a portion of an edge of the plank and at least one bulk pattern adjacent the edge patterns. Edge patterns within a plank and of planks within a flooring system are substantially identical to each other. Bulk patterns form a substantially continuous pattern within an individual plank when adjacent a plank.